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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/383,763	08/26/1999	ROLAND KUHN	9432-000079	7013

7590 08/14/2002

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EXAMINER

ARMSTRONG, ANGELA A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2654

DATE MAILED: 08/14/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/383,763

Applicant(s)

KUHN ET AL

Examiner

Angela A. Armstrong

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 July 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wise et al (US Patent No. 5,884,262) in view of Birdwell et al (US Patent No. 6,108,706) and Brodsky (US Patent No. 5,809,471).

3. Regarding claims 1-20, Wise et al teaches a computer network audio access and conversion system which implements

Network connection at Figure 2, element 15; col. 3, lines 51-61

Recognition of commands or search requests of subject words or phrases at col. 4, lines 13-16

Interpretation of recognized speech or voice commands at col. 6, lines 20-33

Submitting a search request via an Internet search engine to find information related to the subject word or phrase at col. 6, lines 40-51

Providing search results to the user at col. 6, lines 52-55

Providing synthetic speech output based on search results at col. 7, lines 37-41

Accessing predetermined Internet sites at col. 6, lines 40-41 and col. 7, lines 7-9

User profile at col. 8, line 67 – col. 9, line 12

Predefined vocabulary at col.2, lines 50-57.

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3. Although Wise et al provide various examples of possible Internet sites or information requested by the user (weather, traffic information, or sports information), they do not provide an example of program guides.

In a similar field of endeavor, Birdwell et al teach a system of providing announcements of upcoming broadcast information, which implements user profiles and accessing Internet sites and based on the user profiles (created from user behavior patterns or user defined information) the system can filter information to select broadcast announcement information to provide to the user broadcast information of interest (Abstract; col. 1, line 51 – col. 2, line 28).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of invention to apply the information access system of Wise et al to access and obtain broadcast information, as taught by Birdwell et al, for the purpose of obtaining user specified broadcast information in an audio format.

4. Birdwell does not specifically teach that the programming guide indicates the program currently being enjoyed by the user at the time of the user's request.

In a similar field of endeavor, Brodsky teach a method and apparatus for retrieving additional or supplemental information pertaining to an item just seen or words just heard. The system stores information in memory in a menu format, which includes, for example, the name of the movie being viewed, as well as other information (col. 7, lines 2-5). Brodsky teaches that this stored information may be used to pin point program relevant database segments (col. 7, lines 5-7).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to modify the system of Wise to provide for an electronic programming guide, as taught by

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Birdwell, and to provide for an indication of the program being viewed by the user, as suggested by Brodsky, for the purpose of efficiently obtaining relevant program segments or information, as suggested by Brodsky.

5. Wise et al do not specifically teach using constraining the search request or receiving grammars that are downloaded through the network connection. Refer to Brodsky who teach a method and apparatus for retrieving additional or supplemental information pertaining to an item just seen or words just heard. The Brodsky retrieval system includes a recognition system and a user's spoken request for information is matched against a continually changing dictionary. The continually changing dictionary is created from items or keywords extracted from the most recently received program. Brodsky teach that a continually changing dictionary can be created in real time and is much less complicated and more simple to implement in terms of processing time and accuracy (Abstract, col. 3, lines 52 continuing to col. 4, line 18).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to modify Wise et al to implement constrained searching via continually changing dictionaries, as taught by Brodsky, for the purpose of reducing processing time and improving accuracy, as suggested by Brodsky.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed July 11, 2002 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

7. Applicant argues that Brodsky does not teach specific monitoring of the program being enjoyed by the user. The Examiner disagrees. Specifically, the amended claims 1, 10, and 16

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include the limitation of “programming guide having an indicator identifying the program being enjoyed by the user at the time of said user’s request”. Refer to Brodsky col. 6, line 43 continuing to col. 7, line 7, wherein while watching a movie, a viewer hears an item of interest and a service is provided that gives program relevant information upon the user’s request. Brodsky further indicates that the information includes the name of the movie, which may be used to retrieve relevant database information, which reads on an “indicator identifying the program being enjoyed by the user at the time of said user’s request”.

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Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

9. Walker et al (US Patent No. 6,209,028) disclose a system and method for supplying supplemental audio information for broadcast television programs.

Walker et al (US Patent No. 6,263,505) disclose a system and method for supplying supplemental information for video programs.

Taylor (US Patent No. 6,266,094) discloses a method for monitoring, transmitting and retrieving television word content through a client server based on processing of closed-captioned text.

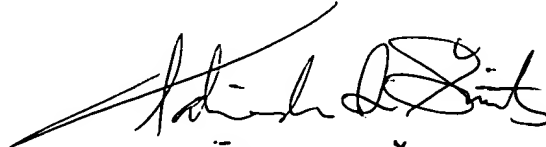
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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Angela A. Armstrong whose telephone number is 703-308-6258. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 7:30-5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marsha Banks-Harold can be reached on (703) 305-4379. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9314 for regular communications and 703-872-9314 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the TC 2600 Office of Customer Service whose telephone number is 703-306-0377.

AAA
August 9, 2002



TĀLIVALDIS MĀRS ŠMITS
PRIMARY EXAMINER